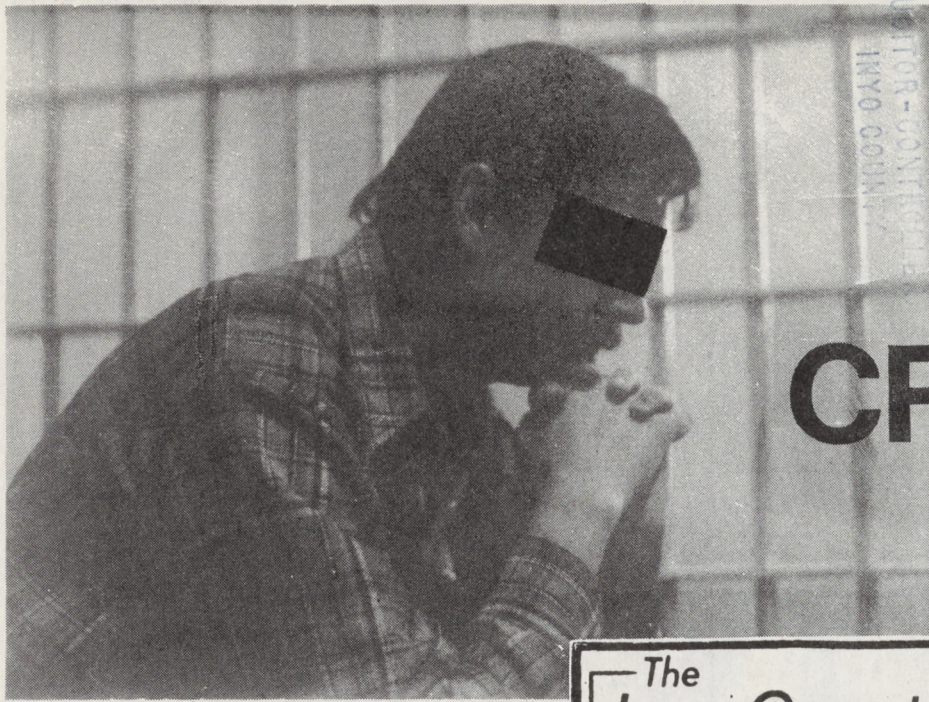




RISING CRIME, CROWDED JAIL

ALONG WITH THE LOCAL CRIME RATE,
INYO'S JAIL POPULATION IS RISING.

It is a well known fact that the population at the Inyo County jail grows year by year, but why is that happening?

Jail houses and state prisons all over the country are full to overflowing with inmates; and just as fast as governments can build expensive new prisons, they are filled. In Inyo County the daily jail population has doubled over the past ten years. Sheriff's Lieutenant Dennis Bacoch says there has been a steady increase in arrests in the county during that same time. Felony arrests shot up, misdemeanors multiplied. In short, crime is up.

The use of alcohol and drugs has something to do with it. 70% of all misdemeanor arrests are alcohol or drug related. Some offenders are high or drunk when they fall into the hands of law enforcement. Others have a drug habit but no income to support it-- they steal to stay high. Sociologists speculate that the generation of the 60's and 70's produced many individuals basically undisciplined and uneducated, bent on getting an easy life for little effort. For them crime becomes an acceptable way of life. But for taxpayers it's becoming expensive to keep the growing number of wrongdoers behind bars.

Lieutenant Bacoch added that criminals are getting younger, with more arrests in the 18 to 30 age group, and more women. "You never used to see that," said Bacoch. He said that even if a woman did get arrested, it was rare that she would do time. But mores in the judicial system have changed. Judges once reluctant to send a woman to jail are now laying down the law. Sentencing in general is tougher in Inyo County. That means more inmates for the jail. Bacoch said that burglaries, thefts, and assaults have been steadily increasing in the county, and the offenders are spending more time in jail here.

While arrests for public drunkenness may seem routine and relatively insignificant, they amount to one-fourth of all the bookings at the jail. The Inyo County jail, as rated by the state board of corrections, is permitted to house 47 people daily. But the population recently has climbed as high

as 50 and 60. There's no such thing as "no room at the inn" for the county jail. Prisoners sometimes sleep on extra cots set up in jail cells or bed down on the floor with a mattress.

The space problem is further complicated by certain legal requirements: juvenile inmates must be completely out of "sight and sound" of adult prisoners; misdemeanor offenders are supposed to be separated from felons; sentenced and unsentenced prisoners must be segregated.

(Continued on page 2)

The
Inyo County
NEWS-LETTER

60¢

January 23, 1984

Auditor Counts Cost of Fight

Is it only a matter of dollars? Inyo County Auditor Don Sorensen is looking at the latest proposed DWP agreement in those terms. Sorensen wrote what he calls the "worst case" scenario of what would happen if the county fails to sign a water agreement with DWP. County officials and citizens are wondering why Sorensen chose to concentrate on the worst situation instead of the best.

The auditor, saying that it's his job to expect the worst, wrote a memo to County Administrator Mike Hanford describing the potential financial impact of rejecting a water agreement. Sorensen says that his figures were not intended to come out for or against the agreement, but he did admit that he personally "favors the concept of an agreement." Whatever his intentions, the auditor's report was taken up by supervisor Johnny Johnson and used at a Big Pine Civic Club meeting to convince citizens and news reporters that without the current agreement, the costs of the water war would be something like \$600,000 a year. Johnson spoke to the Civic Club as if the figures were fact,

(Continued on page 7)

JAIL (Continued from page 1)

Whether it is because of drugs, a lack of social responsibility and discipline, or laziness, the crime rate is rising. Lieutenant Bacoeh said that ten years ago, when he worked street patrols in Inyo, nothing much happened. But the silent streets have become active. It isn't only local people committing crimes. Bacoeh said statistics show that 50% of those booked at the Inyo jail do not live in Inyo County. More people, for whatever reason, are driving through the Eastern Sierra; with the traffic, sadly, comes crime. Strangers to our area sometimes try to pass bad checks or get caught stealing. Lately, officers have made routine stops on traffic violations and discovered the drivers are wanted in other areas for more serious crimes. The computer age has made it possible to keep tabs on offenders throughout the United States. If someone's criminal past catches up with him in Inyo, it's into the county jail.

Like many other counties, Inyo will have to expand its jail. Sheriff Don Dorsey has already taken steps to get a state grant to add 20 cells and renovate the old jail. That project will span the next couple of years. What about the future? Many officers suspect that the county jail will have to keep right on growing to accomodate the crime rate. They do recognize, however, that the jails themselves will probably not reduce crime.

The theory of the past three years has been that tougher laws and more severe sentencing will discourage offenders. The cure may lie much deeper, and the problem may grow worse before it subsides.

A News Alternative

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The Inyo County NEWS-LETTER

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Looking at Inyo's Air

THE A.P.C.D. COLLECTS DATA ON AIR POLLUTION LEVELS IN INYO AND MONO COUNTIES.

Is the air we breathe threatened by pollution? Some Inyo officials have stated that they see no problems, and believe that dust has always clouded the Owens Valley air.

Apparently some state officials feel that air quality in the Eastern Sierra is being threatened. Locally, Air Pollution Control District Director Chuck Fryxell said Inyo's Assemblyman Phil Wyman is very interested in working on legislation to provide substantial funding for air studies.

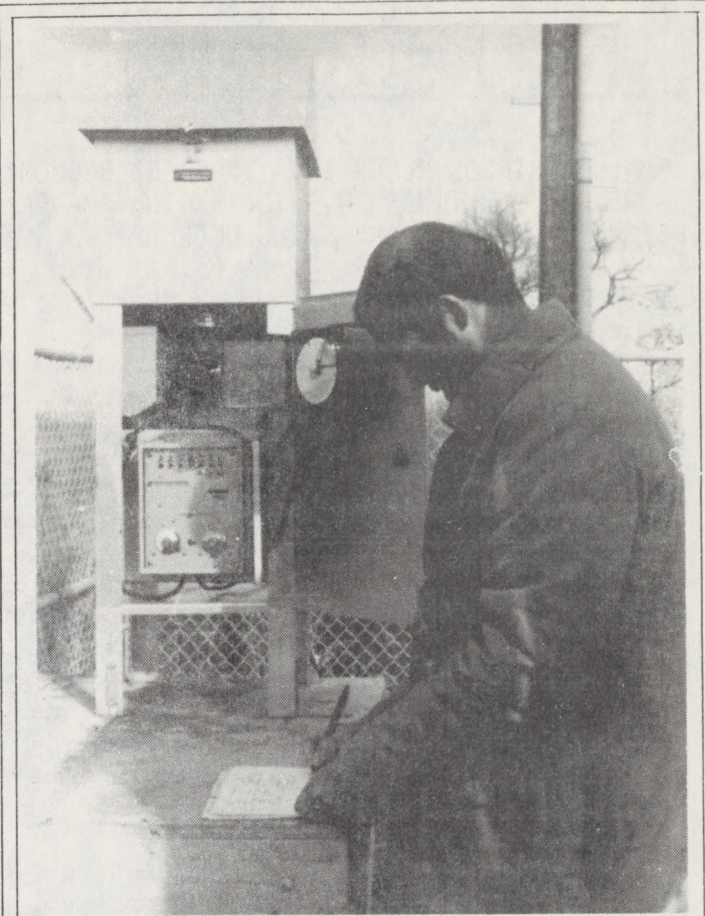
Fryxell said that the Owens Lake Task Force-- a group made up of people from Lone Pine and the DWP, along with Fryxell, that is trying to find ways to solve the dust problems around the dry lake-- had considered the possibility of getting three-way funding from the DWP, the Navy, and the state. It appears that Wyman is eager to work toward that. In recent years, it has been suspected that the Owens Dry Lake and the DWP well fields are the source of growing dust pollution.

Fryxell has aggressively investigated that possibility, and even required the DWP to get air quality permits for all of its pumps. That move prompted DWP to run to Sacramento for legislation to strip the APCD of its power over Los Angeles in the Owens Valley. The result was Senate Bill 270; the first part of that bill is now going into action. The DWP is paying \$38,000 to reestablish its Inyo-Mono air monitoring program. Fryxell said that monitors are now in operation in Inyo and Mono Counties in areas related to DWP's operations. The equipment is set up in Keeler, Lone Pine, Independence, Bishop, Laws, Lee Vining, and Mono Lake.

The goal, according to Fryxell, is to gather data which will shed light on the condition of Inyo's air quality, and to find out what part weather plays in contributing to the problem. In the future, if the monitors do show serious air problems, the APCD will ask DWP to do something about it. Although Los Angeles failed to completely escape regulation by the APCD, S.B. 270 does give DWP more freedom under the law. While other industries in the Eastern Sierra must comply with APCD rules, the DWP now has a chance to go through a number of studies on air quality before any real enforcement can take place. There is also a question of how far APCD can go with that enforcement.

Still, investigation continues into the connection between groundwater pumping and dust pollution. Fryxell said that DWP is in the process of hiring an air quality consultant, and the local APCD office will have a say in that hiring. According to Fryxell, this consultant will study groundwater pumping, the Owens Dry Lake, and Mono Lake for air quality problems.

Fryxell said that his office has not yet drawn any conclusions from the data gathered so far from the air monitoring equipment. APCD workers sample the monitors every six days and keep a record of their



Bill Cox of the APCD records data collected from the air monitor at DWP's well #77 east of Independence.

findings; analysis of the data will come later.

One thing is clear: the Owens Dry Lake has been making things cloudy. Fryxell said that even though the dry lake is very wet right now, it still has areas that are creating serious air pollution problems. The APCD director said that recently some state air resources people were visiting the Southern Inyo area when the dry lake dust filled the air-- the officials took note.

In a way, the continued studies of air and groundwater pumping buy time for the DWP, but local people believe those studies will eventually prove that DWP's activities are harming the environment. Meanwhile, Assemblyman Wyman may seek legislation to help pay for more studies. It appears that DWP's new lobbyist in Sacramento, Eric Bach, is also pushing for that funding. Bach's special field is air quality. He replaces the former, high powered DWP lobbyist Ray Corley, who has climbed the ladder to politics for the Metropolitan Water District.

That lobbying has helped keep the DWP from having to answer much to any local regulatory agency. Out of APCD's efforts and Assemblyman Wyman's interest may finally come some facts as to what effect groundwater pumping is really having on the Owens Valley air quality. When the results are out DWP may have to answer and act. ■

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The
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NEWS-LETTER

A News Alternative

News Briefs

SMALL BUSINESS BLUES IN A TROUBLED ECONOMY / MORE UFO SIGHTINGS IN INYO / KNIGHT MANOR SIGNBOARD RIGHTS ARE STILL UNCLEAR

In today's unpredictable economy, owning a small business is tough. Some people in Inyo County have gone bankrupt, or simply closed their doors. One Bishop merchant, having troubles, took another route.

Ed Sonnenberg bought Owens Valley Drugs in 1978. A couple of years later he moved his store off Bishop's Main Street. Sonnenberg thinks that move helped put him into a slump. He maintained many of his old customers, but didn't attract many new ones on Line Street. In recent months, Sonnenberg was ready to go out of business.

Now he has entered into a kind of merger with Chuck Dugas who owns the Rexall Drug store in Bishop. Dugas said he bought out Sonnenberg's inventory and Sonnenberg is now working at the Rexall pharmacy.

Dugas claims that what happened to Owens Valley Drugs is proof that Bishop can not support four drug stores. That's how many Bishop would have if the new shopping center goes in at the Lazy A Safeway store. Dugas and a number of other Bishop merchants filed a suit in an effort to stop the shopping center, claiming that an environmental impact report should be performed.

*

UFO's (Unidentified Flying Objects)-- are they checking out Inyo County? Two local men recently said they saw something very bizarre-- and definitely unidentifiable. Allan Wallace of Bishop said he was driving on Highway 395 near Pearsonville when he glanced up and saw something that resembled a flying garage with bright lights on it. Fascinated, Wallace stared as the huge craft hovered just ahead and above his car "as if it were watching me."

Wallace had a camera in his car, but he said he didn't fully understand what he was seeing until it was gone.

Larry Cook of Bishop had a similar experience. Cook was sitting at his kitchen table one morning sipping a cup of coffee, when he noticed some kind of aircraft flying near the Bishop Airport. That's not unusual, but the craft with blue and white lights began moving in a very strange way. Cook said it zoomed up and down much faster than an ordinary airplane could, and then in angular movements far beyond the powers of anything he had ever seen. Cook said that the airport beacon, which he can usually see from his window, seemed to disappear during this unforgettable half hour; and when the weird craft vanished, the beacon flashed back on.

Cook and Wallace compared notes on what they saw and think it's very likely that it was the same type of whatever-it-was. They have both long been interested in UFO's and relished the opportunity of seeing what was at least an "unidentifiable" flying object.

Inyo County has long been an area of reported UFO sightings, but these were the first in many months.

*

Dean Knight is still making news. When he erected the Knight Manor directional sign near the highway on Reynolds Road in Big Pine, Caltrans officials were in an uproar. They claimed it was an illegal sign and one day drove equipment to Big Pine to topple the controversial signboard.

Knight and his attorney, Kenney Scruggs, said he had a court injunction to stop the removal of the sign, but Caltrans and the local Superior Court disagree. That issue is still pending, but meanwhile, attorney Scruggs filed an appeal to get clarification of the law on whether or not Knight has the right to have a sign at that location in Big Pine.

There are many local merchants who would like to use informational, directional, or advertising signs, but in many cases, it is only federal Indian Reservation land which seems to be able to reap the rewards of billboards.



(Continued on page 8)

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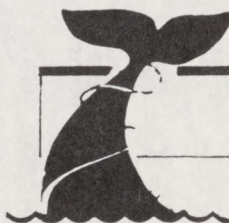
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WHAT ARE THE ODDS?

INYO'S CHANCES IN THE STATE SUPREME COURT

What are the odds of Inyo's groundwater ordinance being upheld in the State Supreme Court? Some supervisors seem convinced that it will fail, but Inyo's environmental law expert sees the case in a far different light.

Antonio Rossman, a widely respected attorney in the field of environmental law, is close to the legal and political pulse of the state's high courts. While some Inyo supervisors and attorneys have implied that the groundwater lawsuit is all but lost, Rossman says that Inyo has a very good case. He explained that recent court rulings show a tendency toward supporting local regulation.

During a visit to Inyo, Rossman told the supervisors that the county has an 80 to 90% chance of getting the State Supreme Court to take the groundwater ordinance case and a very good chance of winning it. From that estimate, Supervisor Chairman Johnny Johnson, looking on the dark side, concluded that there is a "10% chance that the court will not take the case."

Rossman more recently said that counties in Northern California actually have groundwater ordinances which prevent export during drought years. He also said that the 9th Circuit Federal Court of Appeals recently confirmed Arizona's groundwater law, further

validating groundwater regulation. According to Rossman, there is obviously precedence for the regulation of groundwater-- regulation that Inyo's ordinance would undertake.

Rossman believes the courts have been telling local lawmakers that they have the right to regulate when not clearly "pre-empted by state law." Says the attorney, "The courts have bent over backwards to give authority to local governments." In Inyo's case, there is no state agency trying to regulate the groundwater, leaving control of that resource in the hands of local government. Rossman is optimistic about Inyo's ordinance winning in court, saying, "Now is the time to go to court if we can not get a good agreement from Los Angeles."

Even with that kind of good news, county officialdom remains pessimistic. Supervisor Johnny Johnson said he thinks the current water politics in the state will work against Inyo's ordinance in court. On the other hand, Rossman and other state spokesmen feel the politics are, in fact, right at this time.

Most of the legal work has already been done in preparation for a State Supreme Court appeal on the groundwater suit; but the supervisors are considering giving up on that appeal and signing the current agreement proposal. Reliable courthouse sources close to the situation say that the draft final agreement has no substantial changes in it compared to the original concepts that have been made public. The supervisors recently discussed that document in a closed session, but refused to issue a copy to the public. They refused even to admit they were talking about it in secret.

(Continued on page 8)

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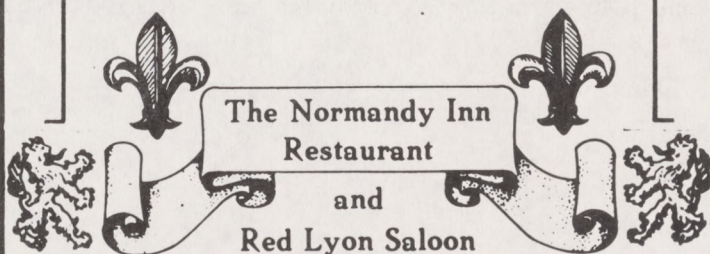


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FORUM - Your View



The Inyo County News-Letter welcomes letters and comment relevant to current issues. The editors will publish here those views concisely stated and considered timely. Letters and statements should be addressed to P.O. Box 33, Independence, CA 93526. The publica-

tion of a letter on this page does not necessarily imply either the editors' agreement with its content, or their guarantee of its accuracy.

A lonely stretch of road unravels ahead as we return from a trip across Death Valley. Darkness has descended and a full moon shines brightly over the desert sage. We pass the small town of Keeler and rapidly approach 395 and Lone Pine. Few cars are on the road with us as we quietly reflect on the day and the successful journey we have had. There's a small rise in the road, and then we drop down to where the river used to run but has long since been dry. Suddenly a large, black object looms by the side of the road, and we slow down. Then four, maybe five, cows slowly cross the highway, and we hit the brake. There's no way to avoid them as we swerve, and the brake is pressed harder. A loud thud and crashing sound are heard as we are jolted in our seats, and we realize we have hit one of the animals. The truck stops in the middle of the road, and quickly the driver gets out to survey the damage. The right front of the vehicle has crumpled under the force of the impact, but the engine runs, though the bumper has imbedded itself into the right front tire, and we can only drive a few feet at most. Meanwhile, the engine has started to overheat, so we turn the key off, realizing that we must be towed if we are to go any further tonight.

My God! Where did they come from and where is the cow we hit? Did we kill it? It must have walked away, though it must be hurting. Headlights in the distance remind us that we should probably flag a car down and hitch a ride to Lone Pine for a tow truck. What a lousy way to end a trip!

Dear Editor:

Such a scene is not uncommon for travelers in Inyo County, for, according to the CHP, there are many miles of open range along the county's highways, and cattle are free to cross and have access to the highway. But is that a safe practice in this day and age?

The cattlemen of the county will tell you it's not a matter of being safe or not, but a problem of economics; there is too much land to keep fenced and maintained. That may be true, yet if someone is killed or seriously injured in such an accident, who is going to say that the cost of fencing the county's highways is not worth it. In this day of million dollar lawsuits, cattlemen might reconsider the cost effectiveness of keeping cattle safely off the highway and away from high speed modern autos and trucks.

California state law leaves it up to each individual county as to whether its highways are considered open range or not, and since Inyo County is an agriculture and livestock producing area, the County Board of Supervisors have decided that Inyo's highways be kept open. That does not include the towns, but all other roadway, including 395, is open range and livestock have the right of way, according to the CHP. Someone seriously injured or whose vehicle has been badly damaged would contest such a law, and there are cases in the courts involving this very thing, but that will not preclude future accidents unless the Board of Supervisors reverses the county-wide ordinance and the cattle are kept fenced.

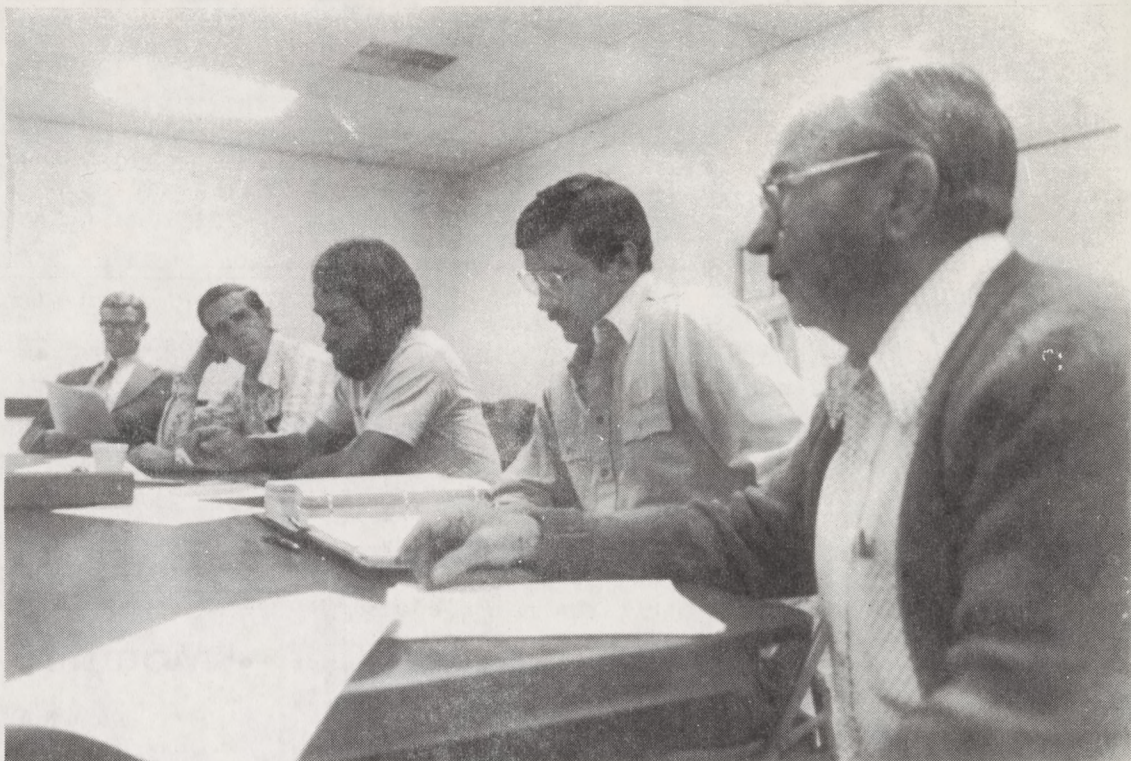
Being such a large county land-wise, a political decision by the Board is unlikely. Cattlemen would be wise, however, to accept responsibility for the containment of their livestock in order to prevent tragedies in which people are killed and there is expensive property damage. Why wait for an accident to happen, if it can be avoided with timely effort and concern.

And there are many visitors to the Eastern Sierra and Death Valley. Tourists passing through Inyo County are unaware that the highways are open range, except for signs saying "Cattle X-ing", and do not expect to be confronted with half a dozen cows ambling their way across the road. Traveling 60 to 70 miles per hour, it's very difficult to stop when a cow, unconcerned with time, crosses unseen on a dark, unknown road. Perhaps the livestock producers should invest some time and money into seeing that the county's highways are safer for everyone, even the cows. There may be life at stake!

Sincerely,

J. Pound

Supervisor Johnny Johnson and Greg James sat at the head table at the Big Pine Civic Club meeting along with (from right to left) Mike Duszynski, president; Robert Fisk, treasurer; and Reverend Oliver Tanguary. Johnson presented Auditor Sorensen's figures as facts. Though he said it was not a pro and con agreement discussion, Johnson's sentiments were clear. He spoke only about what he sees as the down side of the water war, giving the impression that he is ready to surrender to L.A. at just about any price.



But the members of the Big Pine Civic Club may hear another side of the water story. Club president Mike Duszynski said he was thinking of asking members of the Owens Valley Committee to speak at the February Civic Club meeting. OVC people see the water fight as something Inyo must take part in to protect private property and the quality of life in the Owens Valley.

AUDITOR (Continued from page 1)
claiming that if Inyo fails to settle the tax case with DWP, county government must pay back more than a million dollars. What Johnson didn't say was that the tax suit could be fought out and possibly won, and that if it were lost the county could arrive at a settlement that would not cost as much as Sorensen indicated.

The tax suit involves \$540,000 that Los Angeles paid Inyo a few years ago under a separate and higher tax rate imposed on city lands here.

The auditor says that outside legal costs would "easily approach \$100,000" to defend the groundwater ordinance case and the environmental impact report suit if there is no agreement. Special Legal Counsel Tony Rossman questioned those costs. Sorensen also assumed that the Water Department and their studies will cost \$220,000. He did not consider the possibility that the county could search for (and get) grant money to supplement Water Department costs.

When asked why he did not present a "best case" scenario, Sorensen said he "didn't think of it." Supervisor Lefty Irwin was livid when he heard Supervisor Johnson present Sorensen's figures as facts. Irwin said the figures were "twisted" to push the agreement, and he was angry with Johnson and Sorensen for using their official positions to further their personal views. "Sorensen is not the one who decides the

budget, the supervisors do," snapped Irwin.

Sorensen said that he had originally prepared his figures as a "confidential memo," but after checking with the County Counsel decided the document could be made public. Although Sorensen asked the supervisors to remember that his figures are a "worst case" scenario, it's unclear whether the board members will investigate the realities.

Bill Manning, chairman of the Owens Valley Committee, offered a different perspective. Even if Sorensen's figures are correct, says Manning, the amounts are "peanuts when you think of the magnitude of the water fight, and the previous investment of something like half a million dollars."

Manning noted that history is full of worst cases: "The people who fought the revolutionary war in America to establish our government recognized that the worst scenario was that they would be hanged if the British won. They decided it was worth the risk."

Says Manning, "We appreciate Auditor Sorensen looking at the worst possibilities. It's appropriate for him, as an auditor, to take such a stand; but for people who have vision and foresight to move ahead, the view is far different."

In the view of many, unless Inyo fights for its rights in the water war, the quality of life here will suffer drastically. One local resident privately commented that instead of assuming the worst and giving up,

(Continued on page 8)

NEWS BRIEFS (Continued from page 4)

Lone Pine millionaire, Louis Statham, died several months ago, but the dispute over his estate continues. Statham's estate amounts to nearly \$12 million.

His heirs recently asked for a preliminary distribution of some of that money. In his will, Statham named his wife Doris and a few other relatives as beneficiaries of his fortune.

Unnamed was a Santa Monica woman, Barabara Jeane Canham. Soon after the famous inventor died, Canham came forward with a kind of palimony suit. She claimed that she and Statham had shared an intimate and long-term relationship.

Canham wants \$1 million and title to a house in Santa Monica that she says Statham bought for her. Lawyers for the Statham estate filed a motion to strike Canham's claim, and Inyo Judge Don Chapman now has that issue "under submission."

He will study the claim and make a ruling. Judge Chapman did agree to the requested preliminary distribution of Statham's estate to his heirs.

The Marvin Mitchellson law firm is representing Ms. Canham. That firm has gained wide publicity for its involvement in palimony suits--the Lee Marvin case, for example.

It's an area of law subject to much interpretation. Ms. Canham's lawyers say their client can provide witnesses to testify about her relationship with Statham. The woman has claimed that she and Statham had an understanding that he would support her.

Judge Chapman must decide whether the woman should have her day in court.

ODDS (Continued from page 5)

It was reported that the draft agreement went to Los Angeles and that it will probably be made public at the end of January. Until then, it appears the public will remain in the dark, and Inyo's groundwater ordinance case will remain "on hold."

AUDITOR (Continued from page 7)

why not resolve to fight and find the dollars. In the past, Inyo's wishy-washyness has made some government agencies reluctant to invest grant money into the water dispute. As Mr. Manning suggested, what if our forefathers had decided that the revolutionary war was just too expensive?

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How to avoid marriage's common pitfalls: stay single!

Morals don't stop you from being sinful-- they just make you enjoy it less.

An optimist is a person whose 20/20 vision makes him see things as they ought to be.

Anything that can happen between two people can happen between two nations.

Education today is knowledge chasing students, educators chasing money, and bureaucrats chasing them both out of business.

Reagan establishes a new embassy at the Vatican. He thinks God will send him an encouraging omen-- a second term in the White House.

Adam and Eve were shacking up, but didn't know it until a smart alec snake gave them an apple.

The Soviet Union proposes a ban on chemical weapons. The blind man proposes to teach reading.

South Korea's political evolution lags behind its economic development. They finally caught up with us.

White House ties rosy forecast to tax increases. We can then stock up on rosy forecasts instead of the necessities of life.

Shortfall: when a midget trips. Windfall: when a legislator trips.

Management consultant tells executives how to get the right stuff. If consultants had the right stuff they'd be executives.

The United States is composed of 50 states closely disconnected by Republicans and Democrats.

One person's rights are another's burdens.

China reports its crime rate is down 42% after executing 5,000 criminals in five months. China substitutes bleeding hearts with bleeding criminals.

Jesse Jackson proves that talk is more effective than the guns of a battleship. Jackson's mouth could prove to be more dangerous than a whole armada.

There are only two types of presidential candidates: those who think they are God and those who know they are.

In the old days taxation without representation was unthinkable-- today it is unsinkable.

Government plans to limit recreational gold mining in California. If the poor man wants gold, let him go find it at the end of the rainbow-- unless it happens to be on BLM land.

Mondale changes his mind about keeping our Marines in Lebanon. The only thing that is permanent is Mondale's ability to change his mind.

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Benett
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Notes from B.K.

CARTAGO MAN STILL WAITS FOR SOCIAL SECURITY TO ADMIT
HE'S ALIVE / P.B.S. AIRS WATER PROGRAM IN L.A. /
ANOTHER INYO V.P.P.

County Clerk Rita Bromley-Holland and husband Jim used the holidays for a kind of delayed honeymoon. They flew to Australia and New Zealand. The spunky clerk had "a great time." Besides having fun, the clerk took note during her travels that Australia has a "well-organized government."

*

Bill Langen of the Cartago area has been waiting for the Social Security office to admit that he is alive. A couple of months ago word came to us that, in its bureaucratic wisdom, Social Security had declared Langen deceased. Well, he knew better. After wading through red tape and phone calls, Langen finally received a check for back payments he had been denied. But then, so we hear, the government claimed they overpaid him. He called to complain, and the Social Security people reassured him that there was no problem; they would "take care of things." Langen says the way the government seems to be taking care of things, he's still worried.

*

Rumor in Mono County: recalled supervisor Mike Jenks will move to Inyo County and run for supervisor here. That's a tongue in cheek rumor. We hear from reliable sources that Jenks is doing some lawyering in Sacramento and other towns.

*

PBS in Los Angeles bravely aired "Water, Wealth, and Power" not long ago. Owens Valley's plight was highlighted in that program, which focused on the critical water situations in California, and the power politics involved. We hear that some DWP officials were not too happy with the production and tried to tone down the portion on the Owens Valley. PBS made no cuts.

*

Cindy O'Connor, the Inyo Water Commissioner who wants to be the Assemblywoman for this area, has been hitting the campaign trail. O'Connor became a Democrat in 1978 when she gained an appointment to a special state committee. Then-Governor Jerry Brown had appointed her.

Now she's looking for support from Democrats in all parts of the assembly district. She will oppose Republican Phil Wyman who has represented this area for a number of years.

Seems the Democrats are finally coming to life and looking for a candidate. Of course, locally, O'Connor has recently been in the midst of controversy over the pro-

posed DWP agreement. Her initial support for that document alienated some local voters.

*

Electronics and computers are everywhere these days: in school classrooms, county offices. Even gas pumps are computerized. But sometimes those computers are annoyingly sensitive. Clarence Benbrook tells us a friend of his was cleaning off one of those new fangled gas pumps with a feather duster. It seems the feathers stirred up some static electricity, and put that gas pump right out of order!

*

The Dining Out Crowd: Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Ivey and friends enjoying the exceptional cuisine at Anna's Italian Villa in Independence.

And if you're up for a bit of a drive, we know the chef at the June Lake Normandy Inn. He's Mark Melanie from Australia. He may be from down under, but he's on the top of our list for fine dining.

*

Very Pleasant People Department: John Kemp of Big Pine. Met him at the Big Pine civic club meeting. He's spent a lot of years in community activities, and still keeps an eye on local politics.

*

A first for Big Pine. Local television has come to town. Channel 12 is now exclusively set aside for local TV-- just as it is in Bishop. For nearly two years ICTV 12 has operated in Bishop with local news and other programming.

The Channel 12 studio in Big Pine is located in Gerry Knight's realty office building. Knight rapidly filled the character generator, which shows on 12 most of the day. He's in charge of the studio, and Tom McGuigan's video class at Big Pine school will be helping out-- even showing some of their work on the air.

Local news on "Eastern Sierra Report" was first aired on January 9th. The response was overwhelming; Knight is still getting calls of gratitude for bringing local TV to town.

...MAY THE NEWS IN YOUR DAY BE GOOD NEWS
EVERY DAY...

Sincerely,

BK

LAWYERS: A Law Unto Themselves

Ran into a very interesting book at the Lone Pine Library: "How Lawyers Made a Racket Out of Law" by William Thomas. To anyone wishing to "Sue the Bastards," as a book by another lawyer suggests, this book is an 11 on a scale of 1 to 5.

Mr. Thomas tells why you are usually not allowed to represent yourself in court. Considering that you are the only person who can explain your case to your lawyer, Thomas asks, why should you need one?

The author also reveals how lawyers, who are also legislators and judges, have conspired to keep themselves well heeled by encouraging litigation over accidents, probates and malpractice, among others.

This interest-grabbing book tells you just who wins when cases are delayed for years. Logjams in court and the expenses caused by those delays are paid by you, the taxpayer; you, the plaintiff; or you, the defendant. No matter what the outcome, the lawyers reap the profits.

You can take Mr. Thomas's book apart, but the pieces will all still fit together. This from common sense and experience.

by C.E. Benbrook

NEW WAYS OF THINKING~~

"A Whack on the Side of the Head" by Roger Von Oech.

The best we can say for this book is a plug for it by another author, John Naisbitt who wrote a best seller called "Megatrends." He says, "In a time of great change we are most in need of creativity and innovation. This book provides us with proven ways to release the creativity that is in all of us. A very helpful book."

And helpful it is for anyone looking for new ways of solving life's puzzles. Von Oech shows you how to get creative ideas on purpose by evading the right answers, by not following the rules, and by not being practical-- among other methods. The book also gives examples of different ways to think when solving a problem or trying to create something new.

It is well written in simple language and is easy to read. There is something in it for everyone-- the writer, the inventor, the painter, and especially dummies like me.

Nothing ventured, nothing gained.

by C.E. Benbrook

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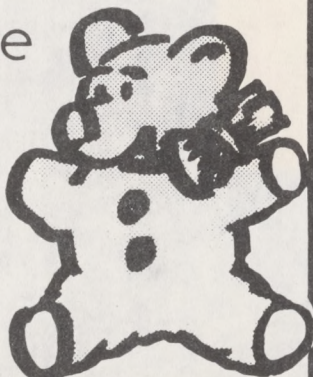
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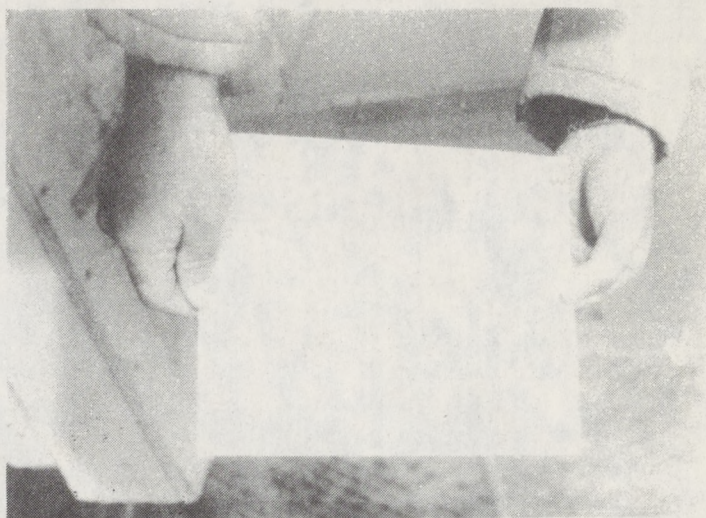
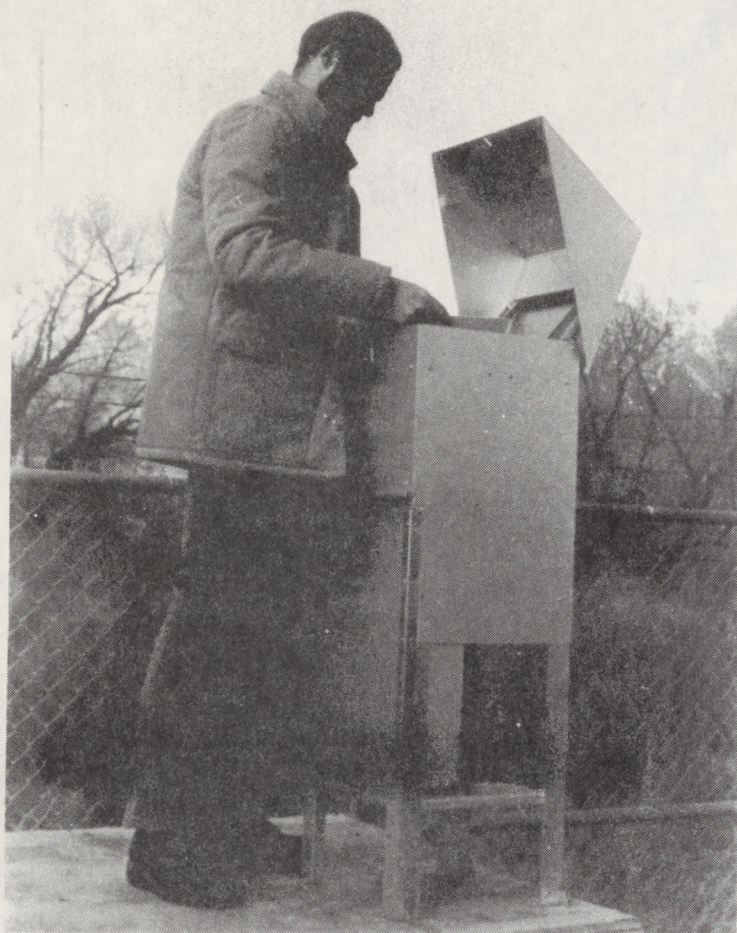
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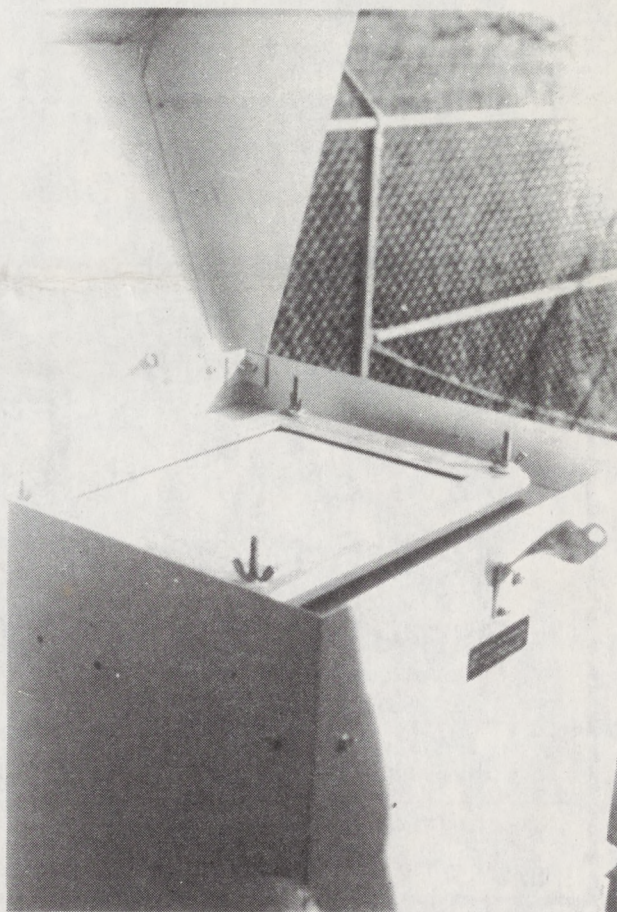
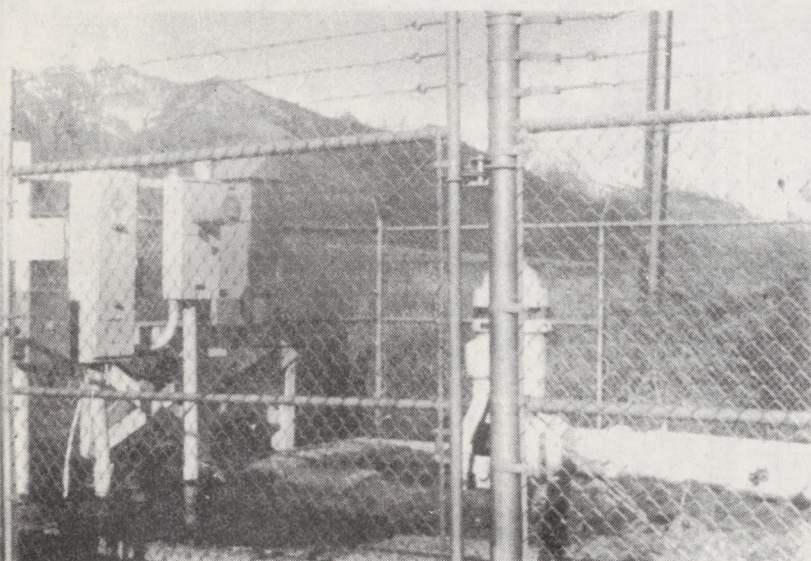
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APCD's Bill Cox checks that agency's air monitor just east of Independence at DWP's well #77. With monitors like this one at several locations from Lee Vining to Keeler, APCD hopes to find out just what effects ground-water pumping and water diversions have on local air quality. (See story on page 3)

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